



Mary Ann Mongan Library
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Library Board Selects DesignGroup to Provide Analysis of Covington Library

DesignGroup, has been selected to do a cost benefit and space analysis related to the remodeling of the Kenton County Public Library's Covington building. The Library's Board of Trustees selected this firm at its November 18, 2008 board meeting.

The Mary Ann Mongan Library was constructed in 1973-1974 and houses a large book collection, media resources, special collections, outreach services (including vehicle based outreach), and Library administrative offices. A recent facility audit indicated that the building is in excellent structural condition. However, many architectural elements need to be updated and the building needs to be redesigned to meet the needs of the library's service population. The Library Board of Trustees and personnel will convene the community to solicit input for the development of a comprehensive building program.

DesignGroup was established in 1972 and is a 72-person professional design firm with offices in Columbus, Ohio and Covington, Kentucky. The firm has designed and renovated more than 90 public libraries in Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana and Georgia. The Library Board of Trustees selected DesignGroup from a field of 13 firms for their extensive library design experience and their commitment to providing facilities that exceeds the needs of the community.

"We are excited to begin working with DesignGroup to see what options we have with this building," said Library executive director Dave Schroeder. "On average, this building serves more than 37,000 visitors each month. "The Mary Ann Mongan Library is an

important asset to the Kenton County community, especially to those residents living in Covington. We want to make sure that we are providing these residents the same first class facilities that we provide in other areas of the county.”

DesignGroup has been asked to provide analysis and costs of several options for the Covington library including:

- Move administration off-site or redesign current facility to meet administration needs.
- Analyze the suitability of the lower level of the current building for long-term public service activity.
- Identify the possible options for additions to the current facility that would provide flexible space that would meet the needs of the library for the future.
- Re-imagine or relocate the main entrance to the facility.
- Create a maintenance schedule for the building (3-5years) (plumbing, electrical, roofs, HVAC, etc.) that will keep the facility in good repair until construction begins

This analysis must be completed, including budget projections and conceptual drawings, by March 1, 2009. At that time the Board of Trustees will review the plans and begin developing a timeline for the project.

Officials will also be convening community groups and doing surveys to gauge what residents, businesses and organizations would like to see as part of the renovated Covington Library. DesignGroup will also be participating in community meetings and surveys. To learn more about these meetings or this project, go online to www.kentonlibrary.org/covington.

The Mary Ann Mongan Library is located at 502 Scott Street in Covington. Last fiscal year the Covington Library had 453,819 visitors who checked out 440,769 items. Reference staff answered 110,163 questions. There were 1,404 free instructional, educational or recreational programs including instruction on computer software, book discussions, teen programs, concerts, storytimes and local history programs and tours. Program attendance during the last fiscal year was 32,824, an 18 percent increase from the previous year.

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The Kenton County Public Library has three locations – Covington, Erlanger and Durr in Independence. The library is consistently one of the top ranked public libraries in the state of Kentucky and served more than 1.1 million visitors last year. The library also provides more than 4,000 free educational, informational and recreational programs and training classes annually. Learn more at www.kentonlibrary.org. In 2008, the Kenton County Public Library was ranked the #1 library in the state of Kentucky based on the HALPR Index.